

ADDITIONAL FEE:

Please charge any insufficiency of fee, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 50-0427.

R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued August 6, 2008 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

The applicants herein wish to thank the Examiner in charge of this application, Mr. Alex W. Mok, and his SPE, Mr. Karl Tamai, for the courtesy and cooperation they extended applicants' counsel during the personal interview conducted on September 9, 2008. During this interview, applicants' counsel presented a number of illustrations which are attached to this Amendment as Exhibits and explained below. There followed a detailed discussion of the prior art patents to Taiani and Fehr et al., as well as the language of applicants' claim 1. It was suggested that claim 1 be amended to recite the inner sleeve as being "a unitary helical band with a mating protrusion and groove on opposite sides" to more specifically define the applicants' invention.

Claim 1 has now been amended in the manner discussed at the interview. In addition, as explained at the interview, the word "fastening" has been changed to -- retaining -- in the interest of clarity.

In addition, claim 23 has been amended to correct a typographical error and the Abstract has been amended, and placed on a separate page, to incorporate the language now added to claim 1.

It is believed that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes patentably over Tiani and Fehr et al.

As is recited in claim 1, the containment shell for the magnetic coupling arrangement, according to the invention, comprises both an outer sleeve and an inner sleeve. As explained in the last two paragraphs on page 2 of this application, such a containment shell is known from the German Patent No. 689 15 713 (corresponding to the U.S. Patent No. 4,896,064 to Taiani). As explained there, the arrangement of Taiani requires numerous components for the inner sleeve to be aligned with each other during assembly.

According to the present invention, the inner sleeve is formed as a unitary, helical, profile element having a mating protrusion on one side and a groove on the opposite

side. This allows the inner sleeve to "self align" during manufacture.

During the interview, Examiner Tamai noted that the patent to Fehr et al. showed an outer sleeve having external grooves 11 filled with wire-like "reinforcing elements". He noted that these grooves could be either annular or helical, as noted in Column 2, line 36, of the patent.

Applicants responded that the presence of such external grooves gave no suggestion to a person skilled in the art that the inner sleeve could, itself, be formed of a helical band.

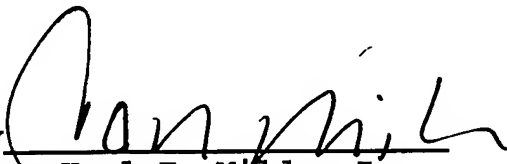
Attached to this Amendment are copies of the exhibits shown to the Examiners at the interview. Exhibit 1 is a drawing showing the profile element which is part number 7 (the inner sleeve) depicted in Figs. 1-3 of this application. Exhibit 2 is a photograph showing an actual profile element as a continuous helical band. Exhibit 3 shows a cylindrical pipe formed from the helical band.

Exhibit 4 is a magnified, cross-sectional view of the helical band showing how two successive turns of the helix mate together.

As explained at the interview, the assembly of the inner and outer sleeve during manufacture is greatly simplified by applicants' invention. An explanation of the assembly process is found on page 15, last paragraph, of this application.

Since claim 1 has been amended to render it clear and definite, and since claim 1 is believed to distinguish patentably over the cited prior art for the reasons given above, this application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is accordingly respectfully solicited.

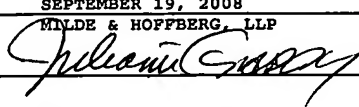
Respectfully submitted,

By 
Karl F. Milde, Jr.
Reg. No. 24,822

MILDE & HOFFBERG, LLP
10 Bank Street - Ste. 460
White Plains, NY 10606

914-949-3100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008
MILDE & HOFFBERG, LLP
By 
Date SEPTEMBER 19, 2008